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United Nations

Statistical Commission

Report on the twenty-ninth session
(11-14 February 1997)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 1997
Supplement No. 4

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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SUMMARY

At its twenty-ninth session, the Statistical Commission adopted revised international recommendations for (a) construction statistics, (b) international trade statistics, (c) international migration statistics, and (d) population and housing censuses. The Commission also adopted a revised Central Product Classification.

In following up the statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences, the Commission adopted the Minimum National Social Data Set (MNSDS), consisting of 15 indicators. The Commission emphasized that the 15 MNSDS indicators should be considered as a minimum and not a maximum list of indicators, and invited users to build on MNSDS to meet national needs and circumstances, as well as requirements in specific fields.

The Commission reviewed a number of initiatives that groups of countries and international organizations are undertaking on a range of critical issues in economic statistics, such as best practices for official statistics, globalization, informal sector statistics and other issues. In particular, the Commission:

(a) Agreed on the need to conduct an evaluation of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) to address the reservations held by some countries about ICP implementation and the uses of ICP results, and to seek ways to improve the credibility of ICP data;

(b) Appointed a steering committee to supervise the evaluation process.

The Commission agreed that the Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics had largely accomplished its goals and should therefore be discontinued. It also agreed that the task forces on national accounts, international trade statistics, environment statistics, service statistics and finance statistics (the latter with an amendment to its terms of reference) should continue their work.

The Commission supported a draft recommendation that will be before the Council of the World Customs Organization in June 1997, requesting all countries that use the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to supply their international trade statistics to the United Nations Statistics Division. In addition, the Commission established a small group of countries and organizations to examine the feasibility of holding a seminar or symposium on good practices in the area of technical cooperation.

The Commission also established a group of countries to explore new approaches to the structure and operation of the Statistical Commission, as well as to the relationship between the regional commissions and the Statistical Commission and other international organizations.

The Commission encouraged all actors in the international statistical system operating in the various fields of statistics, particularly the city groups,* task forces and other ad hoc groups, to make use of current

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* The city groups are the study or research groups looking into critical problems in economic statistics, named after the cities in which they first met, such as the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics and the London Group on Resource Accounting (see, for example, para. 13 below).

communications technology, such as computer bulletin boards, so as to disseminate information widely and quickly to others who might be interested.

The Commission endorsed the proposed work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 1998-1999. It also endorsed the proposal of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities to develop a pilot integrated presentation of statistical work plans for use by international agencies and the regional commissions for coordination purposes.

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft decision

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION I

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session;

(b) Decides that the thirtieth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 1 to 5 March 1999;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda and annotations

   Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

   Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. International trade statistics.

   Documentation

   Report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics

4. International economic and social classifications.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications

5. Statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation and use of the Minimum National Social Data Set

Report on the seminar on poverty statistics, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with other regional commissions

6. Aspects of economic statistics.

Documentation

Reports of the groups carrying out work on various aspects of economic statistics, including evaluation of the International Comparison Programme

7. Environment statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Environment Statistics

8. Service statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Service Statistics

9. National accounts.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on National Accounts

Draft classification of individual consumption by purpose

Draft classification of the functions of government

Draft classification of the purposes of the non-profit institutions serving households

Draft classification of outlays of producers by purpose

10. Finance statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics

11. Technical cooperation.

Documentation

Report on the initiative to develop best practices and other issues

12. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its nineteenth session

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions

Report of the special ad hoc group on the structure and operation of the Statistical Commission

Report on an integrated presentation of statistical work of the international organizations

13. Programme questions and related matters.

Documentation

Draft programme of work of the Statistics Division of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001

Proposals concerning the medium-term plan for statistics

14. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-first session of the Commission.

15. Report of the Commission on its thirtieth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The attention of the Council is drawn to the decisions and other recommendations of the Commission (see paras. 13, 19, 23, 27, 34, 39, 46, 49, 50, 55, 61, 67, 75, 81, 82, 86, 90, 91, 96, 100 and 102 below).

Chapter II

CRITICAL PROBLEMS IN ECONOMIC STATISTICS

3. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 485th and 486th meetings, on 12 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Expert Group on Critical Problems in Economic Statistics (E/CN.3/1997/2, annex);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting reports on selected critical problems in economic statistics (E/CN.3/1997/3 and Add.1);

(c) Background document on informal sector statistics prepared by the Department of Statistics of the Government of India.

4. At the 485th meeting, a senior official of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, France, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, the United States of America and India.

6. Also at the same meeting, the observers for Australia and Canada made statements.

7. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

8. Also at the same meeting, the observers for the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Joint Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Organization of American States (OAS)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) made statements.

9. At the 486th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, the Russian Federation, Germany, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, Romania, China, the United States, the Czech Republic and Portugal.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Australia, Canada and Iceland.

11. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for ECLAC, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, ESCAP, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

12. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Eurostat.

Action taken by the Commission

13. The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the offer of the Czech Republic to cooperate with a number of countries, and to host a meeting on the topic of best practices for official

statistics. The group might want to consider formulating a draft code of best practices to be presented to the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination in advance of its scheduled meeting in 1998;

(b) Took note of the efforts undertaken by Canada and Eurostat to address the issue of globalization;

(c) Agreed with the proposed work programme set forth by the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, with the understanding that existing international standards, such as resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 1993[1] and the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA),[2] would be adequately taken into account;

(d) Took note of the programme of the expert group meeting on capital stock statistics to be organized by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;

(e) Also took note of the proposed future work programme on resources accounting of the London Group on Resource Accounting. The Commission encouraged the London Group to incorporate the views and experiences of developing countries into its deliberations;

(f) Agreed that the issue of measuring prices was a particularly important one. It also agreed with the work programme proposed by the Ottawa Group on Consumer Price Statistics;

(g) Endorsed the efforts of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics to address the issue of quality of labour;

(h) Took note of the creation of the Paris Group on the topic of labour and compensation;

(i) Also took note of the initiative of the United Kingdom to define the scope of the issue of the economics of intangibles, suggesting that a definition of emerging problems be sought within established economic statistics frameworks, where appropriate;

(j) Agreed on the need to conduct an evaluation of the global International Comparison Programme (ICP) to address the reservations by certain member States about ICP implementation and the uses of ICP results, and the need to seek ways to improve the credibility of ICP data. The Commission noted that the timing of an evaluation was appropriate since the regional and global results of the current round would become available by the end of 1997;

(k) Appointed a steering committee to supervise the review process. The Commission accepted the following volunteers to serve on the committee: Australia, Canada, India, the United States, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Russian Federation, the World Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division;

(l) Suggested that the steering committee review the terms of reference for the evaluation of the global ICP contained in the annex to document

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[1] See ILO Bulletin of Labour Statistics (Geneva), 1993, No. 2.

[2] Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 2, Rev.4 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4).

E/CN.3/1997/3/Add.1 in order to take into account the very special problems involved in making comparisons between highly developed and developing countries, such as how to ensure that the items chosen reflect common characteristics and are representative of all countries being compared;

(m) Took note of the work of IMF on the elaboration of standards for the dissemination of economic and financial statistics, and the work of ILO on the dissemination of standards for labour statistics;

(n) Encouraged the above-mentioned groups to take account to the fullest extent of country experiences, and to ensure effective dissemination of the results of their deliberations. The Commission also took note of the offer of the United Nations Statistics Division to distribute material received from the groups to national statistical agencies and regional commissions, and to establish, on the Division's home page, links to the groups' various computer bulletin boards.

Chapter III

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

14. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 483rd meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/1997/4);

(b) Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics on the revised Provisional Central Product Classification (E/CN.3/1997/5, annex);

(c) Draft Central Product Classification (Services part; sections 5-9) (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77 (Version 1.0) and Corr.1).

The Commission also had before it a background paper entitled "Correspondence tables linking the Provisional Central Product Classification and the Central Product Classification, Version 1.0".

15. At the same meeting, a senior official of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

16. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman of the Voorburg Group made an introductory statement.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Romania and the United States.

18. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

19. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that the Statistics Division should play a pivotal role in the coordination of economic and social classifications so as to resolve differences and encourage the harmonizing of classifications;

(b) Endorsed the recommendation that the name of the Expert Group on International Classifications be changed to Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, reflecting the decision to consider international economic and social classifications as a family;

(c) Endorsed the development of a module on basic principles for the implementation and use of international classifications, for inclusion in the Common Code of Best Practices in the United Nations System, which is to be drafted, circulated and reviewed at the third meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, in 1997;

(d) Recommended that the revised Central Product Classification (CPC) be published as Central Product Classification Version 1.0, on the understanding that in the preface, users would be alerted to the plans for its further improvement. The Commission also encouraged member States to start implementing

CPC Version 1.0 and make suggestions to the Secretariat for its further improvement;

(e) Emphasized the importance of keeping the goods part of CPC in step with future revisions of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS),[3] and requested the Secretariat to seek country assistance for doing so;

(f) Recognized the need to continue to consult the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics so as to utilize its technical expertise for future revisions of CPC.

[3] Brussels, Customs Cooperation Council, 1984.

Chapter IV

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

20. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 486th meeting, on 12 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Task Force on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/1997/6, annex);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on assessment of the work of the inter-agency task forces established by the Statistical Commission in relation to their mandates (E/CN.3/1997/24);

(c) Background note prepared by the United Nations Secretariat on high-priority programmes and activities in environment statistics.

21. At the same meeting, a senior official of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

22. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the Netherlands and Germany.

Action taken by the Commission

23. The Commission:

(a) Stressed that the future work of the Task Force on Environment Statistics should focus on improved coordination of its programmes and activities;

(b) Considered basic environment statistics to be of the highest priority, followed by environmental indicators and accounting;

(c) Stressed the need to develop a closer linkage between environmental indicators and environmental accounting;

(d) Welcomed the proposal by the United Nations Statistics Division to collaborate with the London Group on Resource Accounting on the revision of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA);

(e) Endorsed the establishment of a computer bulletin board system for sharing information on technical cooperation activities.

Chapter V

SERVICE STATISTICS

24. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 486th meeting, on 12 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Progress report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/1997/7, annex);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on assessment of the work of the inter-agency task forces established by the Statistical Commission in relation to their mandates (E/CN.3/1997/24 and Corr.1).

25. At the same meeting, the observer for OECD made an introductory statement.

26. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Australia and Canada.

Action taken by the Commission

27. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the progress report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/1997/7, annex);

(b) Stressed the importance of ensuring consistency between the fifth edition of the IMF Balance of Payments Manual,[4] CPC Version 1.0, SNA 1993 and the manual on trade-in-services statistics proposed by the Task Force, and requested that the contents of the proposed manual be consistent with the findings of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Globalization Group (Working Party Number 9).

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[4] Washington, D.C., 1996.

Chapter VI

INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION STATISTICS

28. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 483rd meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the revised international recommendations for construction statistics (E/CN.3/1997/9);

(b) Draft revised international recommendations for construction statistics (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/47/Rev.1).

29. The Commission heard an oral report of the Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics, presented by its Convener, OECD.

30. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Netherlands, as well as by the observer for Statistics Canada.

31. Also at the same meeting, a senior official of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany and Mexico.

33. Also at the same meeting, the observers for IMF and ESCAP made statements.

Action taken by the Commission

34. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the work carried out by the Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics, and agreed that the Task Force had largely accomplished its goals and should therefore be discontinued;

(b) Recommended that the draft revised international recommendations for construction statistics:

(i) Reflect clearly the concepts, definitions and terminology used in the 1993 SNA and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Third Revision,[5] particularly where they applied to the construction industry;

(ii) Be published as part of the collection of United Nations recommendations.

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[5] Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev.3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.11).

Chapter VII

INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

35. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 483rd meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/1997/10, annex);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the revised concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/1997/11);

(c) Draft revised international merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/52/Rev.2).

36. At the same meeting, the observer for the World Trade Organization made an introductory statement.

37. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Kenya, China and Germany, as well as the observer for Australia.

38. At the same meeting, the observer for the World Customs Organization (WCO), an intergovernmental organization, made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

39. The Commission:

(a) Decided that the order of priority for carrying out methodological work should be:

(i) Preparation of a compilers' manual;

(ii) Preparation of a revision of Customs Areas of the World;[6]

(iii) Collection of technical information on index numbers of international trade statistics;

(b) Encouraged all countries to supply the commodity breakdown of their current and past international trade statistics to the United Nations Statistics Division, preferably in terms of HS, for the purpose of completing the Statistics Division database according to HS;

(c) Welcomed the adoption, by the WCO Harmonized System Committee, of the draft recommendation that countries provide the United Nations Statistics Division with their international trade statistics according to HS, and expressed its support for the adoption of that recommendation by the WCO Council;

(d) Decided that the Task Force on International Trade Statistics should continue to function, and should address the issues set out in its report

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[6] Statistical Papers, No. 30/Rev.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XVII.12).

(E/CN.3/1997/10, annex) to the Commission and other issues within its established terms of reference;

(e) Adopted the draft revised concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics (PROV/ST/ESA/SER.M/52/Rev.2), subject to the Secretariat's incorporating amendments that would clarify the draft text while maintaining its structural integrity;

(f) Requested the Secretariat to publish and distribute the revised concepts and definitions;

(g) Also requested the Secretariat to work towards further harmonization of the concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics with the 1993 SNA and the fifth edition of the IMF Balance of Payments Manual.

Chapter VIII

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

40. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at its 487th meeting, on 13 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Task Force on National Accounts (E/CN.3/1997/12, annex);

(b) A background document on the milestone assessment of member States.

41. At the same meeting, a senior official of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

42. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal, the Netherlands, Mexico, the Czech Republic, Germany, Kenya, Japan, India, the United Kingdom, China, Togo and Jamaica.

43. At the same meeting, the observers for Egypt, Australia and Canada made statements.

44. Also at the same meeting, the observers for ECLAC, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) made statements.

45. At the same meeting, the observer for Eurostat made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

46. The Commission:

(a) Commended the milestones defined by the Task Force as an appropriate tool for monitoring progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA. The Commission suggested that a similar milestone approach be used for the implementation of other international statistical standards;

(b) Agreed with the proposal to present the updated milestone assessment of countries to its future sessions. The Commission recommended that such information be supplemented by annotations prepared by the regional commissions. It also asked that an analysis be prepared of changes occurring in milestone assessments over time;

(c) Recommended that, for medium-term implementation targets, priority attention be given to countries currently in the pre-SNA phase or in phase 1 (as formulated under option 2, 'Main macroeconomic aggregates', of the Task Force report; see E/CN.3/1997/12, para. 17). More generally, the needs of special country groups, as mentioned under option 5 (see E/CN.3/1997/12, para. 20), ought to be taken into account. The Commission noted that the options presented were not mutually exclusive, and therefore different approaches might be required in different regions. Accordingly, it was suggested that the above recommendations be implemented in a flexible manner;

(d) Endorsed the proposed support system for the Task Force, emphasizing again the importance of making publications available to countries. Particular

mention was made of the need to develop guidelines and data for the household sector, including the informal sector;

(e) Decided that the new United Nations data questionnaire for national accounts, based on the 1993 SNA, should be implemented in 1999;

(f) Stressed the importance of functional classifications, and agreed with the proposed programme for their development and dissemination;

(g) Endorsed the suggestion contained in paragraph 33 of the Task Force report to make concrete proposals for a process of updating the 1993 SNA for the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination. The Commission recommended that both the need for a streamlined process and the need for adequate consultation be taken into account.

Chapter IX

FINANCE STATISTICS

47. The Commission considered item 10 of its agenda at its 487th meeting, on 13 February 1997. It had before it the following document:

Report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/1997/13, annex).

The representative of IMF, as Convener of the Task Force, introduced the report.

48. At the same meeting, the observer for the International Monetary Fund made an introductory statement.

Action taken by the Commission

49. The Commission took note of the activities and progress made by IMF in the specialized statistical systems on balance of payments, monetary and financial statistics and government finance statistics, and also took note of efforts to harmonize concepts and definitions in these areas of finance statistics with the 1993 SNA.

50. The Commission endorsed the proposal contained in the report of the Task Force to amend the terms of reference of the Task Force in order to incorporate a request that work programmes of international organizations in the field of finance statistics be presented periodically as a means of providing updated information and as the basis of discussion on particular issues.

Chapter X

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

A. 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme

51. The Commission considered item 11 (a) of its agenda at the 485th meeting, on 12 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Demographic and social statistics: 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme' (E/CN.3/1997/14);

(b) Draft revised principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.1).

52. At the same meeting, a senior official of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

53. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, China, Germany, Kenya, India and Portugal.

54. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), ILO, ECE and the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

Action taken by the Commission

55. The Commission:

(a) Commended the work of the Expert Group on the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme, appreciated the way in which census experts from all regions had been involved in its preparation, and supported the way in which the Secretariat had collaborated with the regional commissions, UNFPA and other organizations in revising the principles and recommendations;

(b) Endorsed the provisional principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.1). It fully supported the inclusion of the new and revised sections in parts one, two and three, and particularly welcomed the attention to user needs developed in part four;

(c) Proposed revisions of an editorial nature in several sections, and requested that the tabulation programme for population and housing censuses be supported by the inclusion of tabulation lists and descriptions in the published version of the principles and recommendations;

(d) Adopted the principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses, for use in the 2000 round of population and housing censuses and in future census decades;

(e) Requested that the Secretariat publish the principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses, incorporating its suggested changes, as quickly as possible, in all the official languages of the United Nations;

(f) Requested that the United Nations Statistics Division estimate census costs. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the regional commissions, would prepare a report on the costs of conducting a decennial census, and would provide that report, when completed, to the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, the regional commissions and the heads of national statistical offices.

B. Demographic, social and migration statistics

56. The Commission considered item 11 (b) of its agenda at its 484th meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on demographic, social and migration statistics (E/CN.3/1997/15 and Add.1 and 2);

(b) Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its eighteenth session (E/CN.3/1997/19);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-ninth session (E/CN.3/1997/20);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirtieth session (E/CN.3/1997/21);

(e) Draft revised recommendations on statistics of international migration (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev.1).

57. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Population Division made an introductory statement.

58. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Romania, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Germany, Spain, China, Jamaica and Kenya, as well as the observer for Australia.

59. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for ILO, ESCAP, UNHCR, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

60. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Eurostat.

Action taken by the Commission

61. The Commission:

(a) Adopted the draft revised recommendations on statistics of international migration (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev.1);

(b) Agreed that the following revisions should be incorporated:

(i) The word 'dwelling' will not be used in defining 'country of usual residence'. As the representative of the United Kingdom suggested, the term 'a place to live' will be used instead;

(ii) A lower time-limit of three months will be added to the definition of short-term migrant;

(iii) The gathering of information on occupation, industry, status in employment and educational attainment will be made optional;

(iv) The date used in tabulating data on asylum-seekers will be the date on which the application for asylum was filed;

(v) Discussion of the use of censuses to gather information on stocks and the exchange of such information between sending and receiving countries will be strengthened;

(vi) A footnote will be added to table 1 on the taxonomy of international inflows and outflows. The footnote will accompany the table heading, and will read: 'The categories presented in this table should in no way be construed as providing a definition of international migrants. The taxonomy presented in this table is to serve as an analytical tool for the discussion of the different data-collection systems yielding information on international migration flows. The relevant definitions of long-term and short-term international migrants are presented in box 1';

(vii) In tables 3 to 7, the dependants and domestic employees of international civil servants will be divided into different categories;

(viii) A glossary of key terms will be added.

C. Statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences

62. The Commission considered item 11 (c) of its agenda at its 484th meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences (E/CN.3/1997/16);

(b) Report of the Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences (E/CN.3/AC.1/1996/R.4, annex).

63. The Commission had before it the following documents for information:

(a) Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its eighteenth session (E/CN.3/1997/19);

(b) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-ninth session (E/CN.3/1997/20);

(c) Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirtieth session (E/CN.3/1997/21).

64. At the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

65. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, India, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, China, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Kenya and Botswana, as well as the observers for Canada, Brazil and Australia.

66. At the same meeting, the observers for the World Health Organization, Habitat, ECLAC, ESCAP, the Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting of Directors of Statistics, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank and ILO made statements.

Action taken by the Commission

67. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the Minimum National Social Data Set (MNSDS), as recommended by its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, with the substitution of the indicator 'Contraceptive prevalence rate' in place of the indicator 'Percentage of infants weighing less than 2,500 g at birth, by sex';

(b) Emphasized that the 15 MNSDS indicators should be considered as a minimum and not a maximum list of indicators, and invited users to build on MNSDS to meet national needs and circumstances, as well as requirements in specific fields;

(c) Agreed that the implementation and use of MNSDS should be considered at the thirtieth session of the Commission;

(d) Noted the seminar on poverty statistics that is being organized at Santiago from 7 to 9 May 1997 by ECLAC, in collaboration with other regional commissions, and welcomed the intention of ECLAC to include participants from all regions;

(e) Noted that a group of experts would meet in Chile at the time of the above-mentioned seminar and again in November 1997 in Brazil, and that the group would examine technical and professional issues in the development of the statistics needed to measure poverty.

Chapter XI

TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN STATISTICS

68. The Commission considered item 12 of its agenda at its 487th and 488th meetings, on 13 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation activities in statistics (E/CN.3/1997/18);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on crucial issues on technical cooperation (E/CN.3/1997/18/Add.1);

(c) Note by Statistics Canada entitled "Crucial issues on technical cooperation: a framework for the description and analysis of technical assistance" (E/CN.3/1997/18/Add.2).

69. At the 487th meeting, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

70. At the same meeting, the observer for Canada also made an introductory statement.

71. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Germany, Botswana, Japan, France, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation and Kenya, as well as the observer for Canada.

72. At the same meeting, the observer for OECD made a statement.

73. At the 488th meeting, the representatives of India and Portugal made statements.

74. At the same meeting, the observer for the Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting of Directors of Statistics made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

75. The Commission:

(a) Noted the work done at OECD on information related to financing development, and welcomed the fact that OECD had volunteered to discuss with its Development Assistance Committee the possibility of obtaining such information for the use of the Commission;

(b) Decided that an informal group, including Canada, China, France, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United Nations Statistics Division, Eurostat and the regional commissions, should work out the details of a possible proposal on the holding of a seminar/symposium on good practices related to technical cooperation. The Commission invited other countries that might be interested in participating to contact the Netherlands, which was acting as Convener of the group.

Chapter XII

COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

A. Implementation of the Review Group proposals on strengthening international statistical coordination

76. The Commission considered item 13 of its agenda at its 488th meeting, on 13 February 1997. It had before it the following document:

> Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report on the implementation of the Review Group proposals on strengthening international statistical cooperation (E/CN.3/1997/23, annex).

77. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Statistical Commission made an introductory statement.

78. Also at the same meeting, the observer for Australia made an introductory statement on document E/CN.3/1997/23.

79. At the same meeting, the representatives of Togo, India, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States, as well as the observer for Canada, made statements.

80. Also at the same meeting, the observer for Eurostat as well as the observers for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank made statements.

Action taken by the Commission

81. The Commission:

(a) Commended the work done by the members of the review group (see E/CN.3/1997/23, para. 1, for the composition and mandate of the group) that had assessed the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Group on strengthening international statistical cooperation;

(b) Agreed that while considerable progress had been made in the efficient operation of the Statistical Commission, it might be time to consider whether new models for the Statistical Commission were needed. Accordingly, the Commission established a group, consisting of Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, to explore new approaches to the structure and operation of the Statistical Commission, as well as to the relationship between the regional commissions and the Statistical Commission and other international organizations. In particular, the Commission considered that the group might wish to consider the following:

(i) The existence of several different processes for the creation and approval of statistical standards;

(ii) Opportunities for new modalities of operation by the Statistical Commission created by technological advances;

(iii) Increasing demands by policy makers for a more rapid adoption of statistical standards and methodologies;

(iv) The need to involve more non-traditional members in the operation of the international statistical system;

(v) The need to improve the operational relationship between the regional commissions and the Statistical Commission.

82. The Commission requested Mr. W. De Vries of the Netherlands to act as Coordinator of the group, and requested the group to report to the Chairman of the Commission by November 1997.

B. Strengthening of statistical offices of the regional commissions

83. The Commission considered item 13 of its agenda at its 488th meeting, on 13 February 1997. It had before it the following document:

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the regional commissions in statistics (E/CN.3/1997/22).

84. At the same meeting, the observer for the ESCAP Committee on Statistics made a statement on document E/CN.3/1997/22.

85. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Europe and the representative of Kenya made statements.

Action taken by the Commission

86. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the report, and recognized that it would be valuable to the group established under paragraph 83 (b) above;

(b) Emphasized that active country involvement was essential to the success of the regional commissions;

(c) Encouraged countries to consider augmenting the resources of regional commissions by deploying personnel from national statistical offices on a temporary basis.

C. Coordination of statistical data-collection activities

87. The Commission considered item 13 of its agenda at its 488th meeting, on 13 February 1997. It had before it the following document:

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical data-collection (E/CN.3/1997/25).

88. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement on document E/CN.3/1997/25.

89. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

90. The Commission expressed its satisfaction regarding the usefulness of the inventory, and encouraged the Statistics Division to continue its work in the area in order to make that coordination tool more useful and effective.

D. Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination

Action taken by the Commission

91. The Commission:

(a) Decided that the Working Group at its nineteenth session should comprise:

(i) Officers of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-ninth session:

Chairman: C. Jarque (Mexico)

Vice-Chairmen: E. Outrata (Czech Republic)
S. Sathyam (India)
T. Holt (United Kingdom)

Rapporteur: G. Charumbira (Botswana)

(ii) Representatives of States members of the Statistical Commission:

R. Booth (Jamaica)
T. Negi (Japan)
M. Chemengich (Kenya)
P. Wagner (Romania)
W. De Vries (Netherlands)
K. Wallman (United States)

(b) Endorsed the agenda of the Working Group for its nineteenth session, as proposed by the Working Group at its eighteenth session and amended during the twenty-ninth session of the Commission, and requested the Secretariat to finalize that agenda;

(c) Noted that the Working Group would hold its nineteenth session in New York from 10 to 13 February 1998.

Chapter XIII

WORLD STATISTICS DAY

92. The Commission considered item 14 of its agenda at its 488th meeting, on 13 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on a world statistics day (E/CN.3/1997/26);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General containing summary results of a survey of countries (on world statistics day) (E/CN.3/AC.1/1996/R.11).

93. At the same meeting, a senior official of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

94. Also at the same meeting, the observer for Egypt made a statement.

95. At the same meeting, the observer for the Economic Commission for Africa made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

96. The Commission:

(a) Expressed support for the holding of national and regional statistical days in those countries and regions that already held such days, and encouraged the holding of national statistical days in any countries that might wish to establish such days;

(b) Found no consensus in favour of holding a world statistics day.

Chapter XIV

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

97. The Commission considered item 15 of its agenda at its 488th meeting, on 13 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on plans of international organizations;

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of the work and medium-term plan of the United Nations Statistics Division;

(c) Related background documents:

(i) Note by the secretariat on the draft programme of work for the 1998-1999 biennium and related information (E/CN.3/1997/CRP.1);

(ii) Note by the Secretary-General on the medium-term plan of the United Nations Statistics Division for the period 1998-2001 (E/CN.3/1997/CRP.2).

98. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division introduced the documentation.

99. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

100. The Commission:

(a) Took note of the reports, and recognized the resource limitations of the United Nations Statistics Division and the regional commissions;

(b) Endorsed the proposed programme of the work and priorities of the Division;

(c) Endorsed the proposal of the Bureau of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities to develop a pilot integrated presentation of work for use by international agencies and regional commissions.

Chapter XV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

101. The Commission considered item 16 of its agenda at its 489th meeting, on 14 February 1997. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for its thirtieth session (E/CN.3/1997/L.3), which was amended in the light of suggestions and decisions made by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session.

Action taken by the Commission

102. The Commission:

(a) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session as orally amended, subject to final review by the Commission's Working Group at its nineteenth session (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I);

(b) Recommended that its thirtieth session be held in New York from 1 to 5 March 1999 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II).

Chapter XVI

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

103. At its 489th meeting, on 14 February 1997, the draft report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session was introduced by the Rapporteur.

104. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the chapters of the draft report on its twenty-ninth session contained in documents E/CN.3/1997/L.4 and Add.1-9, as orally revised and amended, and E/CN.3/1997/L.4/Add.10-16 in an unedited English-only version, as orally revised and amended.

Chapter XVII

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

105. The Statistical Commission held its twenty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 14 February 1997. The Commission held 7 meetings (483rd to 489th).

106. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, Mr. Yuri Yurkov (Russian Federation).

107. The Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made a statement.

B. Attendance

108. The session was attended by 23 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

109. At its 483rd meeting, on 11 February 1997, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Carlos M. Jarque (Mexico)

Vice-Chairmen: Edvard Outrata (Czech Republic)
S. Sathyam (India)
Tim Holt (United Kingdom)

Rapporteur: G. M. Charumbira (Botswana)

D. Agenda and organization of work

110. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.3/1997/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Critical problems in economic statistics.
4. International economic and social classifications.
5. Environment statistics.
6. Service statistics.
7. Industrial and construction statistics.

8. International trade statistics.

9. National accounts.

10. Finance statistics.

11. Demographic and social statistics:

    (a) 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme;

    (b) Demographic, social and migration statistics;

    (c) Statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences.

12. Technical cooperation in statistics.

13. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

14. World statistics day.

15. Programme questions and related matters.

16. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission.

17. Report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session.

111. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/1997/L.1), as amended.

E. Documentation

112. The documents before the Commission at its twenty-ninth session are listed in annex II to the present report.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

Argentina:	Ana María Ramírez, Samuel Goldberg, Horacio Fernandez Palacio
Botswana:	G. M. Charumbira
Bulgaria:	Zahari Karamfilov, Vassilka Peeva, Zvetolyub Basmajiev
China:	Lu Chunheng, Shen Qinghua, Zhang Weimin, Yue Renfeng
Colombia:	Edgardo Santiago Molina
Czech Republic:	Edvard Outrata, Zdenèk Vesely, Ivo Sramek
France:	Janie Letrot, Jean-Pierre Puig, Alain Tranap, Marie-Hélène Amiel, Philippe Delacroix
Germany:	Johann Hahlen, Gunther Kopsch, Waltraud Moore, Michael Leibrandt
India:	S. Sathyam, P. V. Kumar
Jamaica:	Roland Booth
Japan:	Takanobu Negi, Shuichi Watanabe, Hiroshi Nemoto, Tadashi Nakata, Tadashi Nakada, Yuko Ueno
Kenya:	Margaret Chemengich
Mexico:	Carlos M. Jarque, Miguel Cervera, Gerardo Lozano, Mario Palma, Antonio Puig Escudero, Enrique Ordaz, Norberto Terrazas
Netherlands:	W. F. M. de Vries, R. Luttikhuizen, A. de Jong
Pakistan:	Muhammad Nisar Ahamad Khan
Portugal:	José Tadeu Soares, Emilio Aquiles de Oliveira, Catulina Guerreiro, Miguel Jerónimo
Romania:	Pavel Wagner, Daniela Elena Stefanescu, Sorin Tanasescu
Russian Federation:	Yuri Yurkov, Igor Ulianov, Lev Lovat, Sergei Nesterov, Vasilli Nebenza, Alexei Novikov, Nicholai Ovsienko, Igor Alexeev
Spain:	María Pilar Martín-Guzman, Carmen Arribas
Sudan:	Hassan Abdel Salam Sulieman
Togo:	Nouridine Bouraima
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	Tim Holt, J. Pullinger, A. B. Williams, John Weston, Stephen Gomersall, Peter Gooderham, Victoria Harris, Alison Blackburne
United States of America:	Katherine K. Wallman, Suzann Evinger, Thomas Dunlavey, Robert P. Parker, Fred A. Vogel

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Egypt, Hungary, Iceland, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Swaziland, Switzerland, Turkey

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, United Nations Development Fund for Women, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, ECA Statistics Committee, Conference of European Statisticians, Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting of Directors of Statistics, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP Committee on Statistics, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Trade Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

Commonwealth of Independent States, Statistical Office of the European Communities, Inter-American Development Bank, International Organization for Migration, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Pan American Health Organization, World Customs Organization, World Tourism Organization

Non-governmental organizations

Special consultative status: International Statistical Institute

Roster: International Association for Research in Income and Wealth

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION
AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.3/1997/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.3/1997/2	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on Critical Problems in Economic Statistics
E/CN.3/1997/3 and Add.1	3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting reports on selected critical problems in economic statistics
E/CN.3/1997/4	4	Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications
E/CN.3/1997/5	4	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics on the revised Provisional Central Product Classification
E/CN.3/1997/6	5	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Environment Statistics
E/CN.3/1997/7	6	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Service Statistics
E/CN.3/1997/8	-	Not issued
E/CN.3/1997/9	7	Report of the Secretary-General on the revised international recommendations for construction statistics
E/CN.3/1997/10	8	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics
E/CN.3/1997/11	8	Report of the Secretary-General on the revised concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics
E/CN.3/1997/12	9	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on National Accounts
E/CN.3/1997/13	10	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.3/1997/14	11 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Demographic and social statistics: 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme'
E/CN.3/1997/15 and Add.1-2	11 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on demographic, social and migration statistics
E/CN.3/1997/16	11 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences
E/CN.3/1997/17	-	Not issued
E/CN.3/1997/18	12	Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation activities in statistics
E/CN.3/1997/18/Add.1	12	Note by the Secretary-General on crucial issues on technical cooperation
E/CN.3/1997/18/Add.2	12	Note by Statistics Canada entitled 'Crucial issues on technical cooperation: A framework for the description and analysis of technical assistance'
E/CN.3/1997/19	13	Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its eighteenth session
E/CN.3/1997/20	13	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-ninth session
E/CN.3/1997/21	13	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirtieth session
E/CN.3/1997/22	13	Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the regional commissions on statistics
E/CN.3/1997/23	13	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report on the implementation of the Review Group proposals on strengthening international statistical cooperation

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.3/1997/24 and Corr.1	13	Report of the Secretary-General on assessment of the work of the inter-agency task forces established by the Statistical Commission in relation to their mandates
E/CN.3/1997/25	13	Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical data collection
E/CN.3/1997/26	14	Note by the Secretary-General on a world statistics day
E/CN.3/1997/27	15	Report of the Secretary-General on the plans of international organizations in statistics
E/CN.3/1997/28	15	Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work and medium-term plan of the United Nations Statistics Division
E/CN.3/1997/CRP.1	15	Draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 1998-1999 and related information
E/CN.3/1997/CRP.2	15	Medium-term plan of the United Nations Statistics Division for the period 1998-2001
E/CN.3/1997/L.1	2	Organization of the work of the session
E/CN.3/1997/L.2	2	Status of documentation for the session
E/CN.3/1997/L.3	16	Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission
E/CN.3/1997/L.4 and Add.1-16	17	Draft report of the Commission
E/CN.3/AC.1/1996/R.4	11 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Statistical Implications of Recent Major United Nations Conferences
E/CN.3/AC.1/1996/R.11	14	Note by the Secretary-General on the summary results of a survey of countries (on world statistics day)
PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/47/Rev.1	7	Draft revised international recommendations for construction statistics
PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/52/Rev.2	8	Draft revised international merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions
PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev.1	11 (b)	Draft revised recommendations on statistics of international migration

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.1	11 (a)	Draft revised principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses
PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77 (Version 1.0) and Corr.1	4	Draft revised Central Product Classification (Services part)
A/51/6 (Prog. 7)	15	Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001: Programme 7, Economic and social information and policy analysis
A/51/128	15	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995
A/C.5/51/L.37	15	Programme planning: draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Syed Rafiqul Alom (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations
E/AC.51/1996/L.8/Add.8	15	Draft report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-sixth session (Part II): Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001